



Community Story

Spirit of Partnership and Collaboration - Regarding the Medical Service Project

This past school year Molly Deleon, program manager of the Medical Services Project (MSP) of the American Academy of Pediatrics Arizona Chapter (AzAAP), received a phone call from Mary Ellen Sandeen, a nurse practitioner in Yavapai County. She contacted Ms. Deleon with the hope of getting help for a student who was detected to have an abdominal mass and whose family didn't have health insurance or even a primary care physician. Ms. Deleon laid out the options for the child and asked Dr. Elizabeth McKenna, the MSP Medical Director and an AzAAP board member for help. Dr. McKenna reached out to Dr. Albert Jacobson, Division Chief of Phoenix Children's Medical Group with Phoenix Children's Hospital. Dr. Jacobson didn't hesitate to offer his help. In a short period of time, he and his team were able to arrange for surgery to remove the child's abdominal mass and have also arranged for follow-up care for the child with oncology and hematology specialists.

"This is what can happen when all join together to assist the children – all of us doing our part, whatever that might be," said Dr. McKenna.



Happy time after Dr. Cassidy's staff completed MSP I01 In-Service for health care providers.

Another comment from an MSP participating practice, Pediatrix, is telling of the spirit of giving. "It is better to donate time and services than to have our doctors waiting around to see if someone shows up due to cancellations... we have the providers, we can easily see a sick child in need," said the clinical director Jay Caruthers. In partnership and collaboration with MSP, Pediatrix has donated many clinical hours and services to children whose families otherwise could not afford it. (Continued on page 5)

AzPHA 2013 Spring Conference Moving Arizona Communities Toward Health Equity

By Jana Lynn Granillo

This year, Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA)'s 2013 Spring Conference was coordinated by the association's Health Disparities Section. On the heels of National Public Health Week and during National Minority Health Month, the conference was held on April 24th. Conference participants had an opportunity to talk with leaders and practitioners; hear about work-in progress; and explore professional development possibilities. With the support of membership, sponsors and exhibitors, health equity was center stage.



Dr. Richard Carmona (right, standing) had conversation with the participants.

Arizona Health Disparities Center

Mission:

To promote and protect the health and well being of the minority and vulnerable populations of Arizona by enhancing the capacity of the public health system to effectively serve minority populations and reduce health disparities.

Vision:

Health equity for all

We envision a state where each person has equal opportunity to prevent and overcome disease and live a longer, healthier life.

Contact:

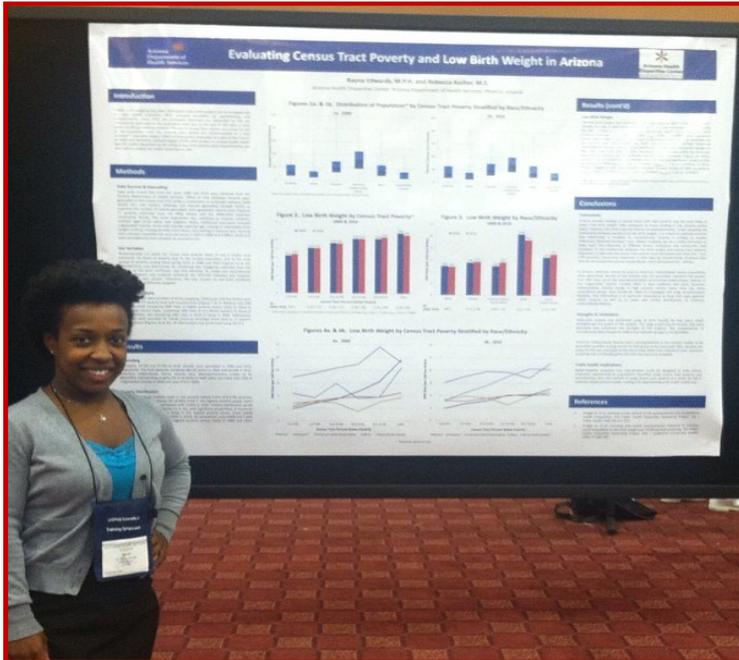
Arizona Health Disparities Center
Bureau of Health System Development
Arizona Department of Health Services
150 North 18th Ave. Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-542-1219
602-542-2011 fax
<http://www.azminorityhealth.gov>

The conference keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Carmona, 17th Surgeon General of the United States, President of Canyon Ranch Institute and Distinguished Professor at University of Arizona (UA) College of Public Health. Dr. Carmona spoke on the topics of Social Determinants of Health and Cultural Competence which covered individual, community, national and global public health. From the trenches as an Army Special Forces combat medic to the top public health official and advisor in the U.S.A., we heard of his experiences how they tied to academic concepts. We were informed and reminded of the importance of root causes, contributing factors, cultural relevancy and prevention while addressing local, national and global public health policy.

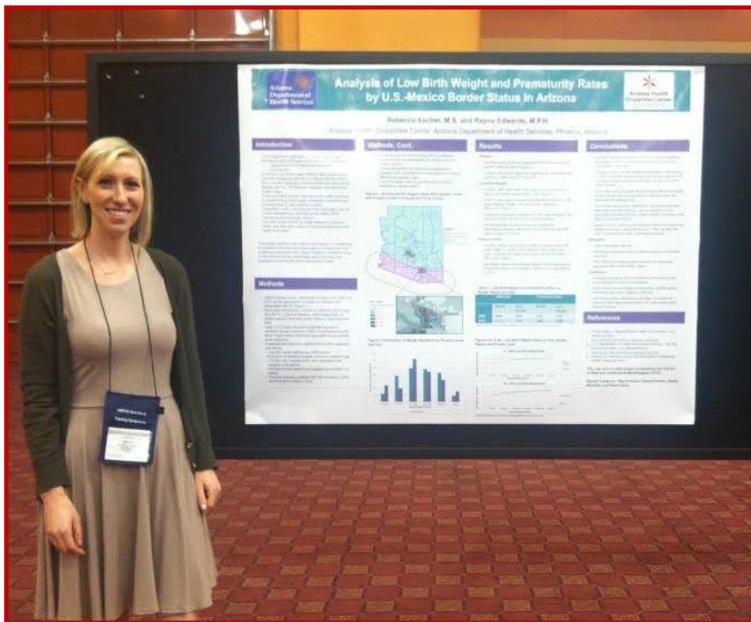
During the general assembly, we heard from community, city, state and Tribal leaders. Their presentations and comments increased audience awareness of: the shortened life expectancy of people with mental health illness; brain trauma among those who suffer from domestic violence; policy implications for the Native American populations; and current trends in city planning that affect population health.

(Continued on page 4)

AHDC Epidemiologists Receive Award at the U.S. Public Health Service Corps Scientific and Training Symposium



Rayna Edwards and Rebecca Ascher, epidemiologists at the Arizona Health Disparities Center (AHDC), Arizona Department of Health Services, received First Place in the Civilian Division for their poster presentation at the 2013 U.S. Public Health Services Corps (USPHS) Scientific and Training Symposium. This year's conference held a focus on the use of the National Prevention Strategy to work with communities and stakeholders at the local, state, Tribal, national and international levels to address health disparities among border, cross-cultural and at-risk populations. Analysis on low birth weight and poverty in Arizona completed by Ms. Edwards and Ms. Ascher was developed into two separate posters presented at the USPHS symposium. One of the posters, Evaluating Census Tract Poverty and Low Birth Weight in Arizona, received the award, as all posters at the conference were part of a larger competition. The conference took place in May in Glendale, Arizona.



Top: Rayna Edwards stands with the winning poster.

Bottom: Rebecca Ascher

AzPHA 2013 Spring Conference Moving Arizona Communities Toward Health Equity

Continued from page 2

The program included poster displays from the public health community and academia and breakout sessions on: Policy and Law; the Integration of Primary Care and Mental Health; Community-Participatory Research and the Affordable Care Act.

In conjunction with the conference, AzPHA hosted a reception for Dr. Carmona and raised funds for the Lloyd E Burton scholarship which will be awarded at the association's annual meeting and conference in September 2013.



Top: Alyssa Padilla with her poster

Right: The Conference's closing presentation speaker, Dr. Dan Derksen (left) and the AzPHA President Pat VanMaanen.



Special thanks to our keynote speaker, community of supporters, volunteers, members, partners, UA College of Public Health and the Arizona Department of Health Services. For conference presentation slides and more information, see this link <http://www.azpha.org/get-involved/conferences/past-conferences/2013-spring-conference>.

For membership information, see <http://www.azpha.org/get-involved/become-a-member>. Follow AzPHA on Twitter and Facebook. ♦



Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane. ♦

- Martin Luther King

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Continued from page 1

In 2012, over 150 providers in Arizona were enrolled with the MSP. Among those were 48 subspecialty providers who provided many visits for children referred by primary care doctors. The MSP offers a streamlined process for providing care without too much paperwork.

Since MSP's inception in 1993, more than 15,000 uninsured children from low-income families who were in need of acute, episodic care have been provided health care-related services through their agreements with health care providers with MSP's referral and coordination. Each MSP provider determines how many appointments per month they would like to make available to uninsured children in their community and agree to accept either \$5 or \$10 (depending on the family's household income) from the child's family as payment in full for the services provided. MSP will pay for labs and medications that are ordered for MSP children for up to \$500 per child per school year. Eyeglass costs are covered by MSP as well, thanks to a grant from St. Luke's Health Initiatives another partner in caring. All potentially eligible children are screened by their school nurses, and it is the school nurse who contacts doctors' offices to schedule appointments. As a result, the "no-show" rate for MSP children is very low. The only time prior authorization is needed is for "specialty care."

One of many "thank you" notes that the MSP received from the parents and children states, "Thank you for helping us with glasses. Now my son is happy because he can see better."

For more information, please see the AZAAP website for more information on Medical Services Project at www.azaap.org. ♦



At end of school year in 2012, nurses at the Washington Elementary School District invited Ms. Deleon and other health care providers to a party to express their appreciation of their services to school children. In the photo, Ms. Deleon held a thank-you poster made by the children.

Publications of Interest:

Cultural Competency and Health Literacy Primer: A Guide for Teaching Health Professionals and Students

It is a basic teaching resource guide to help identify resources for teaching students and practicing health professions how to put into practice effective cross-cultural communication skills.

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/mhhd/CCHLP/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Updated National Healthcare Disparities Report

The report measures trends in effectiveness of care, patient safety, timeliness of care, patient centeredness and efficiency of care. The reports present, in chart form, the latest available findings on quality of and access to health care.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrd/> ♦

Funding Opportunities:

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation: Quality of Life Grant – Deadline: September 3, 2013

Eligibility: nonprofit organizations that serve individuals with physical disabilities, particularly paralysis, and their families
Purpose: to provide critical life-enhancing and life-changing programs and services that improve physical and emotional health.

http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.ddJKRNoFiG/b.4435149/k.A6F7/Program_Overview.htm

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grants – Deadline: Rolling

Purpose: to support programs that work in the following areas: educated children; healthy children; racial equality; civic engagement

Eligibility: Organizations must qualify under the rules of the United States Internal Revenue Services: Non-profit; For Profit/Non-Charity (Latin America and the Caribbean only); Public/Government

Range of award: \$5,000 – \$1,500,000

<http://www.wkcf.org/grants/for-grantseekers.aspx> ♦

For more information about funding opportunities, publications of interest and events of interest, please visit www.azminorityhealth.gov. ♦

Events of Interest:

Culturally Competent Healthcare: How Diversity Creates Better Patient Outcomes

Date: September 24, 2013

Location: Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott, Newark, NJ
https://diversityinctop50.secure.force.com/pmtx/evt_conf_detail?id=a3830000000dkZUAA

Annual Fall Meeting - It Takes A Village: Achieving Healthy Communities

Presented by: Arizona Public Health Association

Date: September 26, 2013

Time: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Phoenix Zoo, 455 North Galvin Parkway Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85008

Contact: 602-258-3361 or jennifer@azpha.org

<http://azpha.wildapricot.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1453610&eventId=690830&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

7th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities: Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

Dates: November 13 – 16, 2013

Location: Sugar Bay Resort and Spa, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

<http://www.nationalhealthdisparities.com/> ♦

Editor's Note:

The *AHDConnection* is published quarterly on January 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31. We are looking for community stories and other leads that are related to efforts to reduce health disparities in Arizona. Because of space limitation, each submitted community story should not be more than 500 words. Ideas for community stories are also welcome. Our deadline is the 15th of month prior to the publication date. Please email articles or ideas to the editor at

hong.chartrand@azdhs.gov. ♦

